WASHINGTON STAR OCT 20 1960
Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RD
STATINTL

Fulbright Says Access To Papers Is Blocked

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Senator Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, today accused the Eisenhower administration of suppressing foreign policy documents which would help the American people to make up their minds in the current heady presidential race.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee revealed that he has been refused United States Information Agency evaluation reports on American prestige abroad, and has been turned down again by the State Department on the full text of Vice President Nixon's talks with Russian Premier Khrushchev last year.

In both cases, he said, the information involves no security matters. He charged that the suppression may endanger bipartisan foreign policy in the next Congress.

"If it should happen that Mr. Nixon is elected," Senator Fulbright tol da news conference, "and many Democrats in Congress should decide this suppression was a factor, it would be extremely difficult to carry on bipartisan foreign policy. I and many others will resent these tactics."

Viewing Authorized

Senator Fulbright pointed out that as Foreign Relations chairman he is authorized to see documents of the highest classified status. In the current controversy, he said, administration officials have gone beyond that and called these reports "privileged documents of the executive branch."

The question of American prestige abroad has become a major campaign issue, with Senator Kennedy charging it has declined while Vice President Nixon contends it is at an all-time high.

Senator Fulbright said the USIA has a division which makes periodic studies of the effectiveness of its own work and of American prestige in general overseas. He said the agency made only one such study as late as August 30 and that he failed without success to obtain it from several USIA officials yesterday.

Reply by Allen

The Senator said he finally reached George V. Allen, director of the agency, and asked why he could not have the prestige report. He quoted Mr. Allen as replying, "because they are privileged" as a matter of Government policy. He said Mr. Allen said he preferred not to mention names as to who had laid down the privileged policy.

Senator Fulbright said he asked if it was the White House or the State Department and was told that the USIA had full liaison with both in reaching the decision.

Senator Fulbright called the policy a "clear effort to prevent the use of legitimate information for the enlightenment of the public," and said the only inference a reasonable person could draw is that the reports on this country's prestige are even worse than has been indicated.

Second Inquiry

Senator Fulbright said he also inquired yesterday about the report of a special committee headed by Mansfield D. Sprague, appointed last December to study American prestige. The Senator said he was told there were only preliminary drafts and that the Sprague report would not be ready until next month.

With regard to the Nixon-Khrushchev conversations last year, Senator Fulbright received another letter from the State Department today turning him down for the fourth time on his request for this text. The Senator has charged that portions of the conversation favorable to Mr. Nixon have been published in newspaper articles by Earl Mazo, who wrote a biography of Mr. Nixon.

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200940087-5